

Serial No.: 09/701,430

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A canning structure consisting essentially of:

a ceramic honeycomb structure not loaded with a catalyst;

a metal case having two opposing fully open ends; and

a non-intumescent ceramic fiber mat holding member;

the ceramic honeycomb structure being held in the metal case;

wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure is fixed beforehand within the metal case by the holding member only.

2. (Original) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure has cell walls thinner than 0.10 mm.

3. (Original) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the ceramic honeycomb structure has cell walls thinner than 0.08 mm.

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4. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal case has a stuffing structure.

5. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the metal case has a tourniquet structure.

6. and 7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A canning structure according to claim 1, wherein the holding member contains ceramic fibers having a diameter of 2 to 6 μm .